90 per cent of the Trade Plan Provisions for the year 1988 have been concluded during the first six months of the current year. Continuous efforts are being made by both the Sides to achieve the target of 5,000 crores during 1988. This includes review of trade flow at official level on a continuing basis and visit of trade and industrial delegations for negotiating and concluding contracts etc.

Item-wise balancing of trade between India and USSR

3395. SHRI KANHU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that item-wise balancing of trade between India and USSR is the most difficult hurdle before Indian exporters;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union has agreed not to insist on item-wise balancing of trade;

(c) if so, what is the new policy; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what remedial stpes Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) Trade between India and USSR is conducted in non-convertible Rupees on a balanced basis. Annual Trade Plans are drawn listing out items of exports to and imports from USSR covering calendar years. Indo-USSR trade is balanced on overall basis.

Some Soviet foreign trade organisations have recently insisted on balancing on specific deals. These and other questions relating to bilateral trade are discussed during bilateral trade talks from time to time to arrive at a mutually satisfactory solution.

Finance for Trichur kōle development Scheme

3386. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state:

(a) whether Government propose to direct the State Bank of India to provide the Trichur Kole Development Scheme with the finance required as per the revised estimate as the NABARD has found the project economically viable; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) had earlier reported that the bank had originally sanctioned certain facilities to Kerala Land Development Corporation for implementing Trichur Kole Land Development Project. However, due to delay in the implementation of the project and cost over runs, the project cost had to be revised upwards. In view of this escalation in project cost, SBI had some time back suggested that the project may be financed by a consortium of banks.

Import of Fertilisers by MMTC

3387. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fertilisers imported during the last financial year by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation alongwith the value of fertilisers and their types and also the names of the countries from which these were imported; and